

U.S. GOVERNMENT MANUAL, 1986/87

National Security Agency/Central Security Service

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The National Security Agency/Central Security Service is responsible for centralized coordination, direction, and performance of highly specialized technical functions in support of U.S. Government activities to protect U.S. communications and produce foreign intelligence information. The National Security Agency was established by Presidential directive in 1952 as a separately organized agency within the Department of Defense. In this directive, the President designated the Secretary of

Defense Executive Agent for the signals intelligence and communications security activities of the Government. The Agency was charged with an additional mission, computer security, in a 1984 Presidential directive.

In 1972 the Central Security Service was established, in accordance with a Presidential memorandum, to provide a more unified cryptologic organization within the Department of Defense and appointed the Director, National Security

Agency, as Chief of the Central Security Service.

The National Security Agency/Central Security Service has three primary missions: a communications security mission, a computer security mission, and a foreign intelligence information mission. To accomplish these missions, the Director has been assigned the following responsibilities:

Prescribing certain security principles, doctrines, and procedures for the U.S. Government;

Organizing, operating, and managing certain activities and facilities for the production of foreign intelligence information;

Organizing and coordinating the research and engineering activities of the U.S. Government that are in support of the Agency's assigned functions;

Regulating certain communications in support of Agency missions; and

Operating the DOD Computer Security Center in support of his role as national manager for telecommunications security and automated information systems security.

Executive Order 12333 of December 4, 1981, describes in more detail the responsibilities of the National Security Agency.